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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you the attached letter, dated 24 July 1993, from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegović, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 24 July 1993 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the establishment of "safe areas", according to Security Council resolutions 819 (1993), 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina finds the activities of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations slow, inconsistent and indecisive. As a result, almost nothing has been accomplished on the ground. The following examples testify to it:

- According to resolution 819 (1993), paramilitary troops of the Bosnian Serbs should have withdrawn from the area around Srebrenica (para. 2). But, in fact, the selective demilitarization of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina was enforced instead. The Secretary-General was obliged to take measures immediately to increase the presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Srebrenica and its surroundings (para. 2). Moreover, the Secretary-General was obliged to intensify humanitarian operations in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in Srebrenica and its surroundings (para. 9), in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This has been only partially done in Srebrenica. The same applies to Zepa.

- The aggressor has systematically obstructed the implementation of resolution 824 (1993) on the establishment of the safe areas. The Security Council and the Secretary-General are aware of the fact, on the basis of reports from UNPROFOR headquarters, yet nothing has been done in that respect, although in paragraph 7 the Council declares the readiness to adopt measures necessary for its full implementation, in the event of failure to comply with the resolution. It enables the aggressor to continue, unpunished, with armed attacks on Sarajevo, Gorazde, Tuzla, Bihac and other areas. It further enables the aggressor to refuse to withdraw its forces, especially the heavy artillery, to areas where it cannot present a menace to civilians, and to block supplies of the elementary needs of civilians - food, medicine, water, electricity and gas. From 6 May 1993, when resolution 824 (1993) was adopted, up to now, 398 persons have been killed in Sarajevo alone and 2,600 have been wounded.

- The aggressor is trying, among other things, negotiations at Sarajevo airport to avoid the very core of the safe area concept under resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) and to impose demilitarization, to the disadvantage of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Especially worrying is the slowness in taking all measures needed for the efficient implementation of the mandate of UNPROFOR extended by resolution 836 (1993) (paras. 5 and 9). For this reason and because of the indecisiveness of the Secretary-General and the UNPROFOR Command, the possibilities given by the extended mandate are not used in practice.

- For no apparent reason, there is a delay in elaboration and ensuring all organizational, technical, operative and other measures to support the extended mandate of UNPROFOR, as well as the use of air power (para. 10). This is now used as an excuse to delay the beginning of the protection from the air of UNPROFOR troops, as well as around the designated safe areas, which was planned for 22 July 1993.

Taking into consideration the extremely unsatisfactory implementation of resolutions concerning the establishment of the safe areas and the prospect of only increasing civilian suffering, we request that the Security Council, in accordance with paragraph 14 of its resolution 83[illegible] (1993), adopt new and stronger measures, and establish mechanisms, including the authorization of the Secretary-General and the UNPROFOR Command for their decisive and efficient implementation.

In our support for the establishment of the safe areas, we have always agreed that they are necessary for the protection of civilians. However, they are not a goal in themselves, but only a part of the peace process and a first step towards a just and lasting political solution.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIĆ
President of the Presidency